VIRTUAL LOCAL AREA NETWORK

Abstract of the Disclosure

Users are enabled to network multiple customer premises equipment (CPE) devices together to form a virtual local area network (VLAN) among CPE devices that access the Internet through different cable modems. In a preferred embodiment, each VLAN is associated with a unique security association identifier (SAID), which enables a cable modem termination system (CMTS) to implement a secondary level of security in its routing procedures. As a result, data packets addressed to one or more members of a VLAN can be encrypted using the corresponding SAID such that access to the data packets is restricted only to members of the appropriate VLAN.